

...

(4) Cost recovery for extensions of service.

(a) A company with a terminating-access tariff under WAC 480-120-540 and a service-extension tariff imposing fees or charges under subsection (3) of this section may file tariffs to include a service-extension element on terminating access in an amount necessary to recover the cost of an extension of service. The tariff may not recover costs covered by applicant or customer payments for service extensions, federal universal service funds, or any similar funds or grants from other sources. The company must file the tariff to be effective only so long as necessary to recover the costs allowed under this section.

(b) Companies may recover costs by filing a tariff under (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection. In the case of companies that serve fewer than two percent of the access lines in the state, placement of the tariff on the agenda of a commission open meeting constitutes notice of an opportunity to be heard on the need for any reporting requirements related to a tariff based on estimated costs.

(i) A company may file a proposed tariff to recover fifty percent of the estimated cost of an extension after it obtains all permits necessary for construction related to the extension of service. Extensions of service must be completed within twelve months of the effective date of a tariff that uses estimated costs. The tariff based on estimates is null and void at the end of that twelve-month period if the extension of service is not completed however, the commission, for good cause shown, may permit the tariff based on estimates to remain in effect after twelve months. If the commission does not permit the tariff based on estimates to continue, the company must within thirty days of the commission's decision or the end of the twelve-month period, whichever is later, file a replacement tariff to offset the amounts collected. After completion of an extension subject to a tariff based on estimated costs, the company may file a tariff to recover the cost of the extension less any amount already recovered or, in the event of an over-collection, must file a tariff to reduce terminating access sufficient to offset the amount over-collected through the initial tariff.

Class A companies that have in effect a service-extension tariff based on estimated costs must report quarterly on collections, expenditures, and construction timetables and progress, including a final report after completion of the extension and termination of the tariff. Companies that serve fewer than two percent of the access lines in the state and that have in effect a service-extension tariff based on estimated costs must make the same report every six months if ordered by the commission.

(ii) A company may file a tariff to recover the cost of a service extension at any time within two years after completion of an extension and may accumulate the cost of multiple line extensions before filing a tariff.

(c) The commission will review the cost justification for the tariffs and approve the tariffs if they are consistent with this section. The commission will not conduct an earnings review of the company's operations for the purpose of reviewing the proposed tariffs.

...